



File
- Caribou
- Miss. Spill
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JAN 6 1998
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

January 2, 1998

Idaho Emergency Response Commission
1109 Main
Suite 250
State House Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720-7000

RE: 12/25/97 Spill Notification Follow-up

To Whom It May Concern,

On December 25, 1997, at approximately 5:10 pm, an accidental release of phosphoric acid occurred at Agrium Conda Phosphate Operations (Nu-West Industries, Inc.), 3010 Conda Road, Soda Springs, Idaho. The accidental spill resulted in no harm to workers, public, or property.

The release was reported to the local emergency response office (Soda Springs, Dennis Godfrey), Boise COM Center (Boise, Shana Barness), and the National Response Center Washington D.C., Petty Officer Gonyea, report #417193).

Mr. Boyd Roberts, of the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality, contacted Randy Lowe, of Agrium/Nu-West, at 20:45 hours on 12/25/97 to confirm information relayed by the Boise COM Center.

A conference call immediately followed with Boyd Roberts, Idaho DEQ, Mary Riedner, Idaho Bureau of Hazardous Materials, Shana Barness, Boise COM Center, and Richard Davies, Pocatello Hazardous Materials Response Team. It was determined by Mr. Roberts that this release would be classified as a "regulatory only" release rather than an emergency release.

Due to the fact that the spill had occurred because of a general power failure in that area of the plant and the exact quantity of the release could not immediately be determined until power was restored, it was also agreed during the conference call that a written follow-up report would be sent with the quantity of the spill and the results of the clean up.

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The following information is submitted to you in compliance with 40CFR355.40(b)(3):

Chemical name or identity of substance released:	Phosphoric acid, H_3PO_4
Substance extremely hazardous? (y or n):	no
Estimate of quantity released:	2600 lbs. (below 5000 lb. RQ)
Time and duration of release:	at approx. 5:10 pm.; 10min.
Media into which the release occurred:	land surface (ground)
Known or anticipated chronic health risks? (y or n):	no
Proper precautions to take:	N/A
Names & telephone numbers of persons to contact:	see undersigned
Actions taken to respond to and contain release:	Phosphoric acid on the ground was immediately neutralized with soda ash.

The release was due to an electrical power failure in the south end portion of the plant which subsequently caused a process tank to overflow. The majority of the spill was onto secondary containment asphalt. As soon as power was restored, the spilled material contained on the asphalt was flushed with water and pumped back into the process. Excavated soils from the spill area not contained on the asphalt were also reclaimed back into the process. Much of the ground was frozen at the time of the spill which allowed the reclaim of the majority of the spill materials. Water and soil samples from the area showed a pH range of 2.6 to 5.6. A Cole/Palmer Mo. 29000-25 pH probe was used for the analyses. Soda ash was used to neutralize any remaining residues.

If you have any questions concerning this follow-up letter, please call.

Sincerely,



Monty Johnson
Environmental Manager

cc: D. Godfrey, LEPC, Soda Springs
B. Roberts, IDEQ, Pocatello